

Please amend the following claims as indicated:<sup>1</sup>

39. (Twice Amended) A method of treating, suppressing or altering the progression of a cancer, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an antibody directed to an APRIL ligand polypeptide capable of interfering with an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and an APRIL receptor, in combination with a chemotherapeutic agent.

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40. (Twice Amended) A method of treating, suppressing or altering the progression of a cancer, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an antibody directed to an APRIL ligand polypeptide capable of interfering with an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and an APRIL receptor, in combination with a radiation therapy.

41. (Twice Amended) A method of suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL ligand polypeptide, comprising the step of exposing said cell to an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of:

a) an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

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<sup>1</sup> An Appendix of Amendments is attached, showing the changes made to the claims. In the Appendix, additions and deletions are indicated by underscores and brackets, respectively.

b) an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof; and

c) an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof.

D1  
42. (Twice Amended) A method of suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL receptor polypeptide, comprising the step of exposing said cell to an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of:

a) an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

b) an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof; and

c) an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof.

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D2  
46. (Amended) A method for identifying an agent capable of suppressing the growth of a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

D2

- a) identifying a cell that proliferates in response to the binding of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:1 to its cell surface receptor;
- b) growing said cell in said cell culture;
- c) exposing said cell culture comprising said cell to a compound resulting in an exposed cell culture;
- d) concurrently or subsequently exposing said exposed cell culture to a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment thereof;
- e) comparing the proliferation of said cell within said exposed cell culture to the proliferation of a substantially identical cell in a second cell culture that was not exposed to said compound; and
- f) determining whether said compound has suppressed the growth of said cell in said exposed cell culture.

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D3

48. (Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said compound is an antibody directed to the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment thereof.

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REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claim 36 and amended claims 39 and 40 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 36 therein. Support for the amended claims is found, e.g., on page 7, lines 2-6 and page 28, lines 6-33 of the specification as filed.

Applicant has amended claims 41 and 42 by deleting elements (d) and (e) from the Markush group recited therein. Support for the amended claims is